

# Your County, Your Government

## *Your Road and Bridge Department*



Fact Sheet #2  
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### **Striving to Improve Roadway and Safety Conditions**

The Santa Rosa County Road & Bridge Department is tasked with numerous duties, including but not limited to, county road repair, resurfacing and paving; bridge construction and repair, drainage improvements, as well as public safety projects like installing traffic signals and sidewalks. Our county is geographically very large- over 1,000 square miles- and it can be confusing for residents to know just what role their local government plays with state, municipality and privately owned roads throughout Santa Rosa. County roads are generally not found within the city limits of Gulf Breeze and Milton or the Town of Jay, and usually do not begin with the word "highway." The Santa Rosa County Road and Bridge Department maintains 1,526 miles of roadway including 161.7 miles of dirt roads and 1,364.3 miles of paved roads.

#### **How are Road Projects Funded?**

Santa Rosa County uses several different streams of funding to complete transportation projects. Property taxes, or ad valorem taxes, are one source. Gas taxes, franchise fees, grant funding, Municipal Service Benefit Units or MSBUs, and cost sharing with other agencies are additional ways of funding road and safety improvements throughout Santa Rosa County.

#### **Getting the Job Done Right, for Less**

While \$1.5 million annually was previously designated for local road resurfacing and dirt road paving, \$250,000 was eliminated by budget cuts in the current fiscal year. One way the road and bridge department stretches road funds is by utilizing county workers to complete the base and shoulder construction on dirt road paving projects. Many may think tax payer dollars can be saved by contracting this work out, but the numbers do not agree. With county staff completing these services, at least \$38,000 per mile is saved. A savings which can then be used for other projects.

An excellent example of using skilled, in-house workers and grant funding to lower the cost of needed road projects is the resurfacing, widening and addition of turn lanes on Willard Norris Road. This vital roadway was recently improved, relieving problems of narrow lanes and rough surfaces, greatly enhancing safety conditions and bettering traffic flow. County employees completed construction of the turn lanes, culvert extensions and replacements, headwall construction, excavating the widening trench, guard rail construction and shoulder work. By using county staff and a Florida Department of Transportation Small County Outreach Program Grant, the total project was finished using only \$535,977.19 of county funding. Without utilizing staff and grant funding, the project would have easily cost more than \$3 million to complete.



***Photos above: New turn lanes and a segment of newly widened and resurfaced Willard Norris Road.***

***Work by Santa Rosa County's Road & Bridge Department is not limited to Willard Norris Road.  
Other major projects completed in the last two years and their source of funding include:***

### **Primary Road Resurfacing Projects**

- **Bell Lane-** 2.0 mile resurfacing project from Highway 90 to Sterling Way. Funded through franchise fees.
- **East Spencer Field Road-** 1.74 mile widening and resurfacing project from Highway 90 to North Spencer Field Road. Funded through franchise fees.
- **Berryhill Road-** Resurfacing project from Pine Ridge Road to Pond Creek Bridge which included left and right turn lanes at Anderson Lane and Locklin Vo-Tech. Funded through Franchise Fees and FDOT Small County Outreach Program funds.
- **Pine Blossom Road-** Resurfacing project from Cherokee Drive to Happy Hollow Drive. Funded through gas taxes and ad valorem taxes.
- **Willard Norris Road-** 8.57 mile widening and resurfacing project which included turn lanes at Northrop Road, Country Club Road, Pine Blossom Road and Anderson Lane. Funded through franchise fees and FDOT Small County Outreach Program funds.
- **Bay Street-** 1.65 mile widening and resurfacing project from Circle Lane to Coronado Drive. Funded through franchise fees.

### **Safety Projects**

- **Escola Street-** Constructed sidewalk from Avenida de Sol to Las Vegas Trail to enhance safety for pedestrians walking to Holley Navarre Primary School. Funded through ad valorem taxes, gas taxes and by cost sharing with Santa Rosa School Board.
- **West Spencer Field Road-** Installed traffic signal and constructed turn lanes at Norris Road to enhance safety for students at Pace Middle School and Pace High School. Funded through ad valorem taxes, gas taxes and by cost sharing with the Santa Rosa County School Board.
- **Westfield Road-** Installed culverts in deep ditches at Oriole Beach Road to increase turning radius. Funded through ad valorem taxes and gas taxes.

### **Drainage Projects**

- **Ganges Trail-** Upgraded storm drain to prevent flooding. Funded with ad valorem taxes and gas taxes.
- **Pineview Church Road-** Demolished old bridge and constructed new timber bridge over Mare Branch. Funded through ad valorem taxes and gas taxes.
- **Holley by the Sea-** Numerous drainage projects throughout the subdivision to eliminate standing water in low areas with high water table. Funded with ad valorem and gas taxes.



***Construction of the Mare Branch Bridge on  
Pineview Church Road.***

### **Paving Projects as Recreational Enhancements**

- **14th Avenue-** Paved 1.58 mile dirt road into Archie Glover Boat Ramp. Funded through ad valorem taxes, gas taxes, boater registration funds and a donation from the I-10 bridge contractor, Tidewater Skanska, Inc.
- **Old River Road-** Paved .33 mile dirt road into Russell Harbor Landing. Funded through ad valorem and gas taxes.

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